

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

—City on a Rule Bender—

One More For the Road

By Joan Borus

A tiny garage is causing a furor among those who want controls on the number of liquor stores on 24th Street.

The garage, located at 3920 24th St. between Noe and Sanchez, is part of the building currently housing Common Scents on the ground floor. For over a year, the building's owner, Dr. Franklin Scarlata, has been seeking a permit to convert the 8' x 35' space into a specialty liquor store.

However, the special use district zoning now in effect on 24th Street sets quotas on the number of bars, restaurants, financial institutions and liquor licenses allowed on the strip, and the "threshold limit" for liquor stores was reached long ago.

Nevertheless, the city planning commission decided to make an exception in Scarlata's case and in February finally granted him approval by a vote of 5 to 2.

The commission's decision incensed Friends of Noe Valley Planning Committee co-chair Mark Cohen, who testified against the proposal at the Feb. 26 hearing. "This approval came in spite of the fact that this is one of the clearest cases which the special use district ordinance was designed to prohibit," he said.

Cohen explained that liquor licenses posed a particular concern for the Friends because, in their view, 24th Street has already reached its saturation level. Granting new licenses, they feel, could significantly alter the street's commercial balance by squeezing less profitable businesses with a lower turnover out of the area. That's why the group decided to oppose Scarlata's plan when he presented his case at their November meeting last year, he said.

Cohen said the commissioners originally were prepared to go along with Friends and vote against the application. However, when they learned that Scarlata had received tentative support for his project from the Department of City Planning last year—before special use controls were in effect—they changed their minds.

In a March 1980 letter to state



Photo by Irene Kane

Arbor Day Ardor

The Arbor Day holiday was revitalized in Noe Valley last month. Dozens of neighbors joined in a greening effort sponsored by Friends of Noe Valley and Friends of the Urban Forest. Among those planting trees were (left to right): Tom Lane, Felicia Lowe and Bill Schwartz.

Alcohol Beverage Control officials, zoning administrator Robert Passmore had indicated there were no local zoning ordinances that would prohibit Scarlata's venture. As a result of the letter, Scarlata said, he had gone ahead and made substantial expenditures on his liquor store.

According to Cohen, though, "the merits of the case were such that if it were appealed to the courts, the evidence would be so overwhelming that it (the decision) would be reversed."

However, he feels an appeal would be unwise, since the time spent in litigation would undoubtedly overlap

with the special use district zoning's expiration in October. "It's more important to get a new ordinance and to recommend certain items be included in the ordinance."

Thus far, however, special use controls have not been implemented with the kind of consistency the Friends desired. The planning commission appears reluctant to enforce the zoning guidelines; all five of the 24th Street special use applications that have appeared before the commission so far have been approved.

Meanwhile, the political complex—
Continued on Page 2

Street Fair Cancelled for 1981

By Nina Goldfeather

You can stop waiting for the word on the Noe Valley Street Fair. The Noe Valley Merchants Association has decided not to hold a fair this summer.

For the past eight years, the annual 24th Street event has been a community effort, with the emphasis on fun, and an opportunity for locals to strut their stuff. Other neighborhood fairs went commercial and touristy, sometimes losing their local flavor, but the Noe Valley festival retained its uniqueness and resisted the lure of fatter profits.

This year, however, the required energy just isn't there. Paul Garvey of Books Plus, president of the merchants association, was in favor of continuing the tradition, but felt there wasn't enough

support to make it work.

"The fair seems to have run its course," he said, "at least as far as most of the people who help to make it happen are concerned."

Garvey said he and two or three other members of the association were the only ones who expressed an interest in putting on a fair this year at a merchants meeting in late January. Friends of Noe Valley, the co-sponsor of past fairs, had already backed out the month before. Garvey said he and the few fair enthusiasts "couldn't put it on ourselves, and if most of the major participants are burned out, then perhaps it's time for a change."

Last year's fair was produced by the public relations firm of Terry Pimsleur & Co., but the Friends and mer-

chants association made all the decisions as to the nature and scope of the event. The merchants could have opted to hire Pimsleur again, this time allowing the agency freedom to call the shots, but felt it was "foolish to hand it over to a corporation and have no control over quality," Garvey said. "Quality shouldn't be sacrificed just for continuity."

In the meantime, the association is toying with the idea of a Christmas music festival, as well as a more elaborate decorative display on 24th Street. "But don't give up on the street fair," Garvey said. "Perhaps next year, if the interest is there, the street fair will make a comeback."

Neighbors Planning for Self-Protection

By Sarah Smith

Close to 200 people showed up at a community meeting March 9 to express their outrage at a recent series of rapes and assaults in the neighborhood and to develop a plan of action. At least seven women had been brutally attacked since November, and Noe Valley residents were not about to sit around and wait for the next incident.

A group calling itself the "Noe Valley On-Target Campaign" was the chief byproduct of the meeting, also attended by members of S.F. Women Against Rape and representatives from the police department and the city's SAFE project. It was held at the Noe Valley Library and sponsored by the Friends of Noe Valley Safety Committee.

On-Target organizer Diane Fenster was encouraged by the wide spectrum of women and men—young and old, black and white—who turned out to seek solutions to crime and violence in the neighborhood. Over 50 people signed up to work on safety projects.

Rather than going the route of triple deadbolts and barred windows, the group hopes to attack the problem by creating a more hospitable environment. "Our main goal is to make Noe Valley a safer community to live in, so that people do not have to stay inside and be afraid, especially women who often feel as though they can't go out on the streets," Fenster said.

One way to accomplish this is get to know your neighbors. On-Target is working "to help people feel like they are not alone on their block. Part of the reason crime is allowed to happen is that the city is a very transient place and it fosters anonymity. People have to learn to look out for each other," she said.

Among the strategies the group is now considering is forming neighborhood block clubs with specially marked "safe" houses, places where people who are threatened on the street can find refuge.

Fenster said the group was fortunate to have several models from which to choose. Women in Duboce Triangle have adopted the "safe" house system, where "if someone needs help, and they knock on your door, you've got to help," Fenster said.

The Bernal Heights neighborhood has also had success with a "Good Neighbor Plan." Members of the plan have posted decals in their windows

Continued on Page 2

INSIDE:

**Bridge Shocker,
Dogs on 24th St.,
Hostages,
Boat People,
Heroin
and MORE**
See pages 7-10.

Letters

~~15c~~ 18c

Noe Valley Reminiscences

EDITOR:

I have just received a copy of your paper from a dear San Francisco friend, and I am delighted with it.

How I remember the *Twin Peaks Sentinel* and the Rae family (February, 1981 issue). All our teenage comings and goings we ran to record and have published by that fine little paper.

My family moved from San Rafael to Noe Valley in the fall of 1904. We lived at 1070 Sanchez St. until 1912, and all my playmates lived in the 1000 block of Sanchez Street and on neighboring Elizabeth Street. You have brought it all back to me.

In 1912 we moved to 4142 24th St. and 1917 across the street to 4167 24th St., where I lived until I married in January, 1919.

I am now 82 years old. The earthquake in 1906 and the resultant fire found us evacuated by the military, and we went to the quarry above Douglass Street and watched the city burn. I was 7 years old and will never forget the sound of the dynamiting to create a fire-block. I had just gotten out of bed having had the measles. My brother, 22 months younger, was very ill with them, and little sister, then 4 years old, was sick coming down with them. Our parents tied the sick brother on his coaster, bundled in blankets, and we set

out for our nights on the hill. When we were allowed back, the soldiers came with a gun every time we lit a candle to give brother his medicine and stood there until the light was out. The boy had pneumonia by that time, but did recover. He once owned a butcher shop at 24th and Diamond.

I remember the Youngman family. Madelyn and Evelyn—I think those were the twins' names—and their brother started school when I did at the Noe Valley School at 24th and Douglass Streets. I went from there to James Lick Grammar, at 25th and Noe, where I graduated in June, 1913. Then on to Polytechnic High.

During the days after the quake, we went to James Lick School for our canned goods, to Edison School for meat and Gummi's Bakery at 24th and Sanchez for our bread. My father was a carpenter and built a fine little cookhouse out in our gutter. The Scatenas, who lived next door, joined us in our cooking and we all ate in the basement at 1070 Sanchez. That's when I learned to love Italian food and even drank watered down wine from the Scatenas' cellar.

I could go on forever about Noe Valley.

My sister, then not quite 17 years old, died in that house at 4167 24th St. during the flu epidemic the last day of 1918. I still have one dear friend from those days who lived on Jersey Street near Sanchez, but most of the rest are gone. My sister Claire, who lives in Menlo Park, was born at 1070 Sanchez St. Am I not a Noe Valleyite?

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Library's 80 Percent Solution

Continued from Page 1

indicating their "Good Neighbor" status, and have also developed a how-to package for block organizers.

One of the first priorities of the On-Target Campaign, which met again late last month, will be to enlist volunteer "block captains" to take charge of organizing their streets.

Meanwhile, the suspects in two separate Noe Valley rape cases faced arraignment in Superior Court early this month. Kenneth Burton, 24, who has been charged with raping a woman and attempting to rape two others in the Chenery/30th Street area, was scheduled to appear in court April 1. A suspect in a break-in and rape that occurred Feb. 21 at Eureka and 21st Streets, Harold Younce, 21, will go to court April 3.

Police have failed to arrest a suspect in a Feb. 13 rape in the vicinity of Castro and 26th Streets.

Those Noe Valley residents who'd like to turn their fear and anger into positive action can call On-Target at 647-0694. The Friends Safety Committee is also working to combat crime in the neighborhood. Call 648-0992 for details on upcoming plans. □

One More . . .

Continued from Page 1

ion of the planning commission itself is changing. Commissioner Charles Starbuck, who concurred with Cohen on the probability of a favorable appeal in the Scarlata decision, and Ina Dearman, another liberal commissioner, were recently replaced by two persons who are both thought to be more sympathetic to development.

Nevertheless, Cohen believes the odds will be in the Friends' favor when the ordinance comes up for renewal. At that time, he plans to submit an extensive report—the first of its kind, he says—on the effectiveness of the system. His aim: to design controls that are more efficient and enforceable.

"We're lucky to be in California, because the courts here are pretty progressive about zoning laws," he said. "We have one of the most unique ordinances in the entire country . . . and we now have the opportunity to really develop it." □

Last month the San Francisco Library Commission finished the excruciating task of deciding which library services would have to be cut if less money is available in the coming fiscal year. The commissioners reluctantly handed the mayor two alternative proposals, both reflecting drastic slashes in library funds.

Under the first plan, with the system getting 91 percent of last year's budget, the Noe Valley branch would continue as it is, but the Eureka Valley Library would be closed. Under a more stringent 80 percent plan, however, both branches would close.

Upon hearing the news, Keep Libraries Alive quickly launched a letter-writing campaign to state and city representatives demanding more funding for the system.

This tactic worked last year, but librarians and activists alike were pessimistic about the chances this time around. State bailout money kept all the branches open last year, though many were forced to reduce services. This year little state money is expected to materialize.

The commission's plan for 91 percent funding calls for the closing of six neighborhood branches, including Eureka Valley. The Business branch would also close, and the main library would be open only one night a week. The 80 percent plan would close three more branches, including Noe Valley, and restrict the hours at the Main Library even further.

There will undoubtedly be many meetings, speeches and plan revisions before the fate of the Noe Valley branch is known for sure. But even in the worst case, no branch is likely to close before the fall.

The Noe Valley branch is probably safe for one more year. Probably. But the victories get narrower with each budget battle, and this could be the year we lose the Eureka Valley branch. It will be a close one. □



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Tainted Vegetables Potential Hazard

Fear and Loathing in the Produce Dept.

By Seph Weene
and Merle Goldman

Tomatoes. Italian squash. Peppers. Green beans. Eggplant. Cucumbers. What do they have in common? The answer is not ratatouille. The answer is often pesticide residues—residues of substances so toxic that the U.S. government prohibits their use.

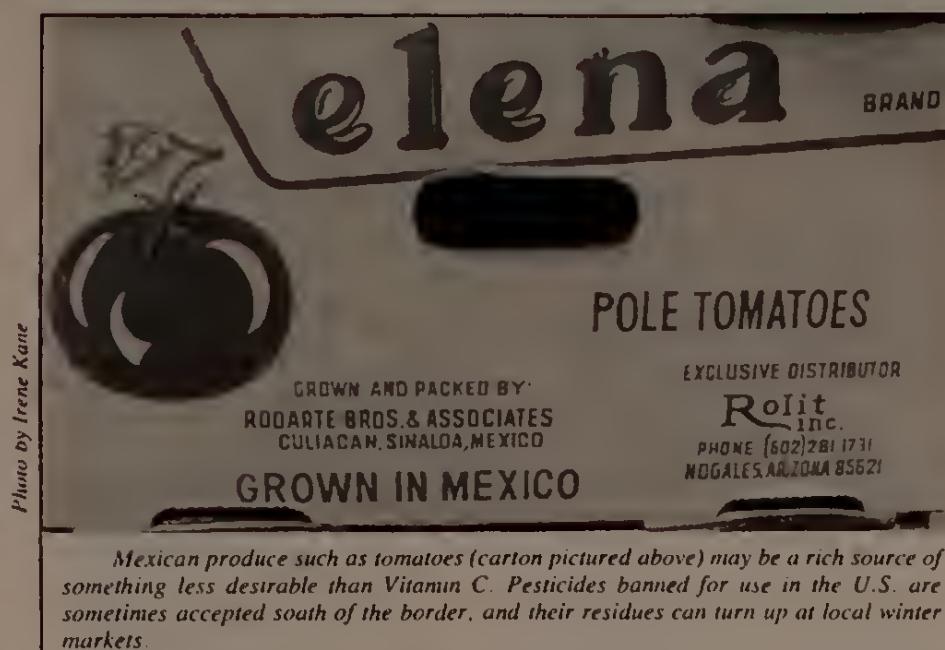
Where do these loaded vegetables come from? From October through May, California's main supply of heat-loving vegetables comes from the coastal valleys of northwestern Mexico. Growing crops for export is big business there, but relatively few grower-shippers control the trade. In Sinaloa, the state that sends the most produce northward, 10 farms supply half of all exports.

Pests and fungi flourish in Mexico's subtropical climate, and so do chemical company representatives. Therefore, it's not surprising that the Mexican vegetable growers use pesticides lavishly. Also, the Mexican government's enforcement of its own pesticide laws is lax.

To make matters worse, U.S. manufacturers frequently dump illegal pesticides on the Mexican market. *Circle of Poison*, a recent publication of the Institute for Food and Development Policy, located nearby on Mission Street, cites a 1979 U.S. government report: "At least 25 percent of U.S. pesticide exports are products that are banned, heavily restricted, or have never been registered for use here."

The Celathion Scandal

The so-called Celathion scandal, reported last year in the *L.A. Times*,



revealed the potential dangers. Celathion is a poison that attacks the central nervous system, causing crippling damage and fetal death. It has been abundantly imported into Mexico allegedly for use on cotton. It is not legal for use on food.

In February of last year, after weeks of work, Food and Drug Administration chemists identified a mysterious residue on the tomatoes of several Mexican growers as Celathion. But since FDA policy is to allow perishable goods through until chemists identify residues, loads of the contaminated tomatoes had already gone north to market. The growers' defense was that the chemical firm had told them Celathion was legal in the U.S. They had been using the chemical on tomatoes and other produce for seven years.

Lloyd Lehrer, an FDA compliance officer, filled us in on this year's violations. His lab has found Endrin, Dime-thoate and Dimethoate O₂ Analog on squash; Monocrotophos on green beans; Dursban on cucumbers; Ronilan on tomatoes; and Acephate on eggplant. None of these chemicals was considered safe for the vegetable they were on, except for the Acephate, which was present in excess. Endrin, which was found repeatedly, is banned for food use here and in Mexico.

These violations may only be the tip of the iceberg. Lehrer says, "Our system is designed so that we are really not going to catch enough of what's coming in."

A single FDA agent collects sam-

ples at Nogales, Ariz., the major border crossing for Mexican vegetables. He sends 10 to 12 daily samples, representing 200 to 400 truckloads, to the FDA laboratory in Los Angeles.

Milt Luke, who works at the L.A. lab, says the FDA has neither the facilities nor the staff to check for all possible toxins. Seven people, using eight gaschromatographs, monitor the produce coming into the lab. Luke says they need 19 more machines as well as more people. Their budget was recently cut by 20 percent.

Identification of pesticides is a critical issue. The Celathion mystery was not an isolated incident. The lab technicians often find residues they can't name, and the FDA continues to let loads bearing unidentified traces go on north. Luke said another current policy was to let all low residues through, no matter what the chemical was.

Even if the FDA lab had more staff and equipment, identifying pesticide residues would still be a problem. The Environmental Protection Agency, which is responsible for providing the FDA with standards and specifications, offers no information on compounds made outside the United States. Chemical firms often manufacture substances that are illegal here by shipping the components to fabrication plants abroad.

EPA standards on chemicals that are considered safe are also suspect. A current suit brought by California Rural Legal Assistance against the State of California, which uses EPA guidelines, charges that standards are "set in a capricious fashion, based on faulty as-

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Home Health Gets Bailout Senior Center Still Afloat

By Peter Magnani

The San Francisco Home Health Service's senior center, at 30th and Church Streets will be getting some of the money it needs to continue operating. A story in the *Voice* last month revealed the center's financial crisis, noting that the facility, which houses a massive nutrition program for seniors and the administrative headquarters of the S. F. Home Health Service, could be lost unless funds are found either to purchase the building outright or to pay the \$10,000 monthly mortgage.

Since then, the city's Commission on Aging has approved emergency funding that would pay the mortgage through June. Home Health officials hope that aid will give them enough time to find the money to buy the building. The grant still has to be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Individual supervisors have expressed support for the project, according to senior center director Marian

Huitt. "But you can't predict what they might do," she said.

Meanwhile, Larry Potts, a publicist for the San Francisco Repertory Theatre and for the long-running revue "Footlight Frenzy" at the Alcazar Theatre, had been looking for a community charity that could benefit from the partial proceeds of a "Footlight Frenzy" performance. He decided the senior center was the place to start.

He took the idea to the show's producers, and they agreed to set aside a block of 100 tickets that the center could sell and keep the proceeds. If they sell all the seats, Potts says, they can raise \$1,200.

Potts is excited about the project. He recently toured the center and was impressed. "It would be horrible if something like this were lost," he said. "Seniors are always being slighted, and a place like this provides a tremendous amount of service for the whole community."

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Community Cross talk

Dog Owner's Dilemma

Six months ago we bought ourselves a puppy, a cute little border collie. We acquired the dog because we wanted a pet as well as a watchdog who could look after the house. Several months after we got the dog, we received our first anonymous note, complaining about his barking. During this time, several other dog owners in the 22nd/Sanchez/Hill Street block received similar notes. All of them were anonymous. All were written by the same person. All were threatening. In several cases, they were accompanied by broken windows.

On Feb. 20 I found a note on my car which was disturbing for several reasons. First, it was anonymous and threatening, and contained abusive language. Secondly, we have made an effort to keep our dog quiet. Both of us work at home, and we seldom allow the dog out back unattended. He barks occasionally, as all dogs do (especially young ones like ours), but we don't allow him to go on and on. And obedience school is continuing to improve his behavior. Thirdly, I have made a conscientious effort to clean up after him on the streets. I walk with a pooper scooper, so he won't be a problem in this area.

Finally, some of the other dog owners and I have attempted to create an opportunity for residents in the east end of the block (where we live) to air whatever grievances they may have about barking dogs. Early in January we scheduled a meeting at one of our houses where anyone—dog owners and neighbors—could come and discuss the matter. The police, who are being kept apprised of the situation, were kind enough to offer one of their staff to attend as a consultant. No one called us. No one came.

I am in somewhat of a dilemma. I don't know who the person is who objects to our dog's barking. I don't even know at what times of day the dog disturbs him. There's no way I can stop the dog from barking entirely. But I would be happy to accommodate anyone who finds his barking unreasonable.

I think everyone should feel comfortable in their own neighborhood. That's true for the person who wrote the note. It's also true for me and my family. Anonymous, intimidating notes create an atmosphere of tension and suspicion which ultimately affects the whole community.

I would be most anxious to hear from the person who wrote the note about his particular grievances, if he would communicate by letter or phone. I would also be happy to hear any comments from my neighbors who have anything to share about local dog problems.

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Loathing . . .

Continued from Page 3

sumptions," and contends that many tolerances are set too low.

State Inspection

Despite these complications, Lehrer feels the rate of apprehension of dangerous residues is improving. But, he warned, some growers will simply re-label contaminated produce and try to send it through again.

In California, the state's Pesticide Residue Inspection program checks produce at market terminals. Most states do not have such an agency. Sherman Nash, the program supervisor, says the inspectors routinely test as much Mexican produce as California-grown items. He agrees there is some likelihood that illegal pesticides are being used outside the U.S.

Like the FDA, the state lab is not set up to find or identify all possible pesticides, and the inspectors let unidentified residues pass. Unlike the FDA, the state agency runs tests the same day a shipment comes in. They also inspect a higher percentage of incoming produce than the FDA does, but the sample is small compared to the volume.

During the winter of 1978-79, the last season for which statistics are available, there were about 50 tests run on the 290,000 pounds of Mexican tomatoes that were sold in the Bay Area. Local labs found illegal levels of pesticide residues on 3.3 percent of our Mexican produce that year. Most of the violations were on sugar peas. Nash said he recalled no violations on Mexican produce this year.

How dangerous are vegetables with illegal residues? Tom Linden of *The Packer*, a produce industry trade journal, says, "It is possible that hazardous residues are getting through—but not in amounts that could kill anyone over the short term."

The Real Victims

Feel relieved? Then consider the information on conditions in the Mexi-

can fields that appeared in the *L.A. Times* for April 4, 1980. Reporters saw teenage boys spraying pesticides from leaking tanks strapped on their backs. The tanks were rinsed in canals that provided the laborers' washing and drinking water. Migrant workers were housed with their families in primitive, open-sided stalls between the canals and the fields. When the crop dusters flew overhead, the mist covered everything.

Pesticide poisonings were routine. One group of workers told the *Times* that someone in their group died every two or three days. A doctor at a local clinic said he saw two or three cases of diagnosable pesticide poisoning weekly, some so serious that the workers were in convulsions.

A young worker said, "You stay in the hospital for two or three days and then you come back to work. But that's only when you get it bad. Usually you just get a headache or nausea and keep on working."

The Local Picture

If you decide you'd rather not eat Mexican-grown produce, stay away from these vegetables until May—unless you find out they're homegrown.

A spokesman for Bell Market on 24th Street confirmed that all of the store's tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, green beans, peppers, zucchini, and eggplant now come from Mexico. The San Francisco Real Food Company carries Mexican produce, too, but also stocks organic greenhouse tomatoes.

The San Francisco Wholesale Market Report for March 10, 1981, listed these homegrown items: cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, broccoli, endive, escarole, garlic, lettuce, mushrooms, onions, artichokes, spinach, brussel sprouts, asparagus, and potatoes. However, other lots of these same vegetables are Mexican. The only way to find out if produce is domestic or imported is to ask. One of Bell Market's owners said the store could not label its produce with the place of origin because it would take too much time. Real Food's manager said he would consider labeling produce to let shoppers know where their vegetables were coming from.

Institute for Food Research

The Institute for Food and Development Policy, located a few blocks away at Mission and 22nd, moved to its offices atop the Mission Market Mall four years ago. The not-for-profit research, documentation, and education center seeks to identify and amend hunger and food problems here and abroad.

"The reality is sufficiency, not scarcity," says Frances Moore Lappe, a co-founder of the institute and author of the national bestseller *Diet for a Small Planet*. "Every country has the resources necessary for its people to free themselves from hunger," but the inequitable economic and political control over those resources stands in the way. The U.S. is not immune, she says. Here, six percent of all landholders control over 50 percent of the farmland.

The institute presents the results of its research in a variety of books, pamphlets, and newsletters. Among its recent publications are *Aid as Obstacle*, on the futility of government aid to elite-controlled repressive regimes; *Circle of Poison*, cited in the accompanying story; and *What Can We Do?*, a guide for food and agriculture activists. In addition, the organization offers speakers and a slide and film show.

Because it takes no government or corporate funds, the institute relies on the sale of its publications and private donations for financial support. There are nine fulltimers and about 25 regular volunteers working out of the office at 2588 Mission St., but new volunteers are always welcome. Hours are Monday through Friday, 9 to 5, and Tuesday evenings. To volunteer, call Annie Newman at 648-6090.

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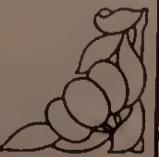
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Dia de Douglas

You can get your ears filled with music, your mouth stuffed with tostadas and tacos, and your whole face painted at the Douglas School Fiesta on Saturday, April 4. The event is being staffed by the students and coordinated by their Parent-Faculty Club to raise cash for this spring's field trips.

The festividades will also include games and a White Elephant Sale, and will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the school's playground at 19th and Collingwood Streets. Parents interested in enrolling their kindergarten-to-fifth-graders in the school, which emphasizes a "well-ordered environment and a non-graded framework," are especially invited to the fiesta. For more information, call school Principal John Ward at 863-5184.

Women's Lib Lit

The Noe Valley Library may soon house the largest collection of women's literature in the city. The Women's Building of the Bay Area, at 18th and Valencia, has decided to keep a major share of its feminist books, periodicals, newspapers, bibliographies, journals, pamphlets and reference material at the local branch, 451 Jersey St.

Women Library Workers, the group which runs the reading room at the Women's Building, is transferring its collection to the Noe Valley Library so that it will be more secure and more accessible to the public, says Noe Valley Librarian Margaret Wyatt. "They also felt this would be a good place because we have been building a women's collection here since 1974," she added.

Wyatt said the library staff was currently making space for the new materials, which she hopes will prove an invaluable resource for both readers and researchers.

Day in Courts

On April 5 Friends of Noe Valley will have good reason to celebrate. The 10th anniversary of the neighborhood organization coincides with the dedication of newly renovated Noe Courts, a project the group has been pushing through the sludge of City Hall bureaucracy for the past five years.

The Sunday festivities will start with a picnic at 11 a.m. The Noe Society is invited to bring blankets, lunch baskets and musical instruments to the spruced up park at 24th and Douglass Streets. The Noe Valley Girl Scout Troop will air its first public song, surprise officials will make guest appearances, and President Lou Hopfer assures us there will be a minimum of speechifying. The official dedication ceremonies begin at 1 p.m.

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SHORT TAKES



Laura Alvarenga will take over for Jason Villafuerte at James Lick this month.

New Principal at James Lick

James Lick Middle School has a new principal. The school board last month appointed teacher Laura Alvarenga to fill the position. She will replace Jason Villafuerte, who headed Lick's administration for the last three years.

Villafuerte has requested a transfer to an elementary school, his former area of expertise. He worked in elementary school administration for 14 years before taking the job at James Lick in 1979.

Alvarenga is no stranger to James Lick, located at 25th and Noe Streets. She was in the eighth grade when she moved to the city from her native Guadalajara, and Lick was the first school she attended. Later, after joining the school district, she taught at James Lick for 2½ years.

In her 5½ years with the district, Alvarenga has taught math and science in both regular and bilingual classes, as well as English as a Second Language. After leaving James Lick, she taught at McAteer High School and worked as a resource teacher in the Spanish Bilingual Program. Most recently she headed up the district's intake center for foreign

students. The principal post at James Lick is her first foray into school administration.

"I am very excited about it," she said during her orientation last month. "But I do accept it as a real challenge. I'm very anxious to learn, and I'm in the process of assessing the situation, working closely with the administrative, counseling and teaching staff for recommendations for constructive changes."

She said she and her staff were "already working on some new ideas," but declined to be more specific until the plans were ready to implement.

Villafuerte said he was hoping to leave James Lick "on a positive note." He said he welcomed Alvarenga's appointment, citing her "excellent credentials," and said the Lick staff was being "very supportive (of her). I'm hoping for a smooth and positive transition."

During his three-year tenure at the school, Villafuerte has had his share of money and discipline problems. But he praised the excellent programs and resources available at Lick, and looking back, noted, "I enjoyed my years here, but maybe it's time for a change." □

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Gripe Group

The Community Board Program, which is currently organizing a local citizens' group to mediate neighborhood disputes, has set up a branch office at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. The new office has no specific hours yet, but the phone number is 821-2470 for those interested in participating in the program. During the next two months, Director Al Williams will recruit and train up to 75 local residents to form the Noe Valley mediation panels.

Easter Specials

The Easter season brings bunnies, sugar eggs and plastic grass but, above all, a chance to celebrate the death and transfiguration of Jesus Christ. The Noe Valley Ministry offers neighborhood residents a variety of opportunities to share the Easter experience.

The Ina Chalis Opera Group will perform Rossini's massive oratorio "Stabat Mater" on Saturday, April 11, at 8 p.m. at the ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Soloists William Wiggins, Vivian Engram and Priscilla Reynolds are among the 18 vocalists who will relate the story of the Crucifixion. Admission to the concert is \$3 or PAS plus 50 cents, with reduced admission for children and seniors.

Pastor Carl Smith promises that on Palm Sunday, April 12, members of the worshipping community will lead a festival procession complete with burro and palm branches from the ministry building along at least a part of 24th Street.

On the following Maundy Thursday, April 16, all are invited to share in a celebration of the Last Supper at 6:30 p.m. A candlelight service on Good Friday (April 17) takes place at 7 p.m.

Easter morning, April 19, starts at 7 a.m. for those who wish to join in a jubilant Easter service with music and breakfast. For people who prefer to sleep in, there's the regular worship service with communion at 10 a.m.

Quake Quotes

Those who enjoy reading about other people's misfortunes but who are sick to death of their moming Chronicle might want to pick up a copy of *1906 Remembered*, an 80-page book containing photos and line drawings and, best of all, 15 oral histories assembled by the S. F. Library's City Guides.

"If anything puts the fear of the Lord in you," says one of the survivors, "it's the Earthquake." Aside from the rumble and roar, this book is a testimony to San Franciscans' ability to group together around a common cause, something we all need to remember. Call 558-3949 to find out where to get a copy.

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In a unique approach to learning job skills, participants in the ISIS workshop off Church Street create beautiful interior furnishings in a supportive atmosphere. Debbie shows her handmade lamp above, and Larry works the loom.

ISIS Gives Disadvantaged A Boost in Business

By Nina Goldfeather

At first glance, ISIS workshop, located at 29th and Church Streets, appears to be just a pleasant addition to the growing number of Noe Valley cottage industries. Attractive handwoven fabrics and ceramic lamps are on display, and weavers are busy in the storefront itself. But that is only the beginning. ISIS is a unique program whose primary purpose is to provide work experience for the vocationally disadvantaged.

A combination business/therapeutic workshop, ISIS began several years ago as the brainchild of Susan Williams, an occupational and arts therapist, and Alice Tamura, also an occupational therapist. It was an experiment at first, a feasibility study without outside backing or funding. Williams and Tamura wanted to test their idea before requesting aid from foundations, so for the first year they used their own money. The project was a success—no real commercial bonanza, but the realization of a goal: to help people whose emotional problems had prevented their employability.

The clients, or volunteers, who make the woven fabrics are referred to ISIS by halfway houses, doctors and clinics. They sell the material as is or turn it into lampshades, pillows, or articles of clothing.

The length of time that the clients work depends entirely on their individual needs. Some require only two months' experience in this setting; others need more time before they feel comfortable enough to apply for a regular job or get into a larger-scale training program. Volunteers usually put in 10

hours a week on a rotating schedule during "workshop" days, Tuesdays through Thursdays.

Lamps are the main focus in the handmade products line. Project co-director Williams makes the ceramic bases, and the client volunteers weave the fabric for the shades. In April, volunteers will begin learning pottery techniques as well, further expanding their vocational possibilities.

"Our volunteers get a good sense of being creative, productive individuals," says co-director Tamura, "especially since they deal with the whole process of production. Factory piece-work just doesn't provide that sense of satisfaction."

The clients do seem deeply proud of their accomplishments; they thrive in the relaxed and pleasant environment, and the work itself is enjoyable. Volunteers find it also financially rewarding, as they receive 60 percent of the sale price on consignment to ISIS.

Williams and Tamura continue to seek out ways to improve the program. More commercial success, for example, will expand their options. "We are working at being more self-sufficient financially—increasing our sales by looking into product development and doing marketing studies on gift items," says Tamura.

They also hope to interest rehabilitation agencies in ISIS—a creative approach to reintegrating the vocationally disadvantaged into the business community.

ISIS is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Friday; Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m. Stop in and choose one of the lamps from stock, or put in a custom order.

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State and local authorities continued to ponder the mysterious April 1 collapse of the Golden Gate Bridge. Bad vibes, Communists and fish are among the suspects in

the mishap. The bridge has been a local landmark since 1937. Bridge authorities are rumored to be considering a toll increase for Marin commuters.

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APRIL FOOL 1981

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

—Adidas at Sea—

Bridge Commits Senseless Act

By Justice Dan McLoughlin, L.L.D.

Over 5,000 pedestrians, most of them joggers, were sent to a saltwater splash as the Golden Gate Bridge collapsed today for the first time ever.

At the time of the catastrophe, the bridge was closed to traffic because of the Third Annual "Jog to Heaven" marathon run. The race, unexpectedly cut short when the Golden Towers toppled, started at Dolores Park in the city and was scheduled to end at an undetermined space in Marin.

No one was seriously injured in the mishap, although several soggy victims were rushed to Kaiser Hospital for observation. All were subsequently released. Sister Mary Antelope sustained a broken jaw during the rescue effort when she was punched by an angry young man who said he was preparing to jump when the bridge faltered and foiled his attempt. There were reports of a few superficial seal bites, but most of the injuries were caused by knifings in Dolores Park before the race began.

While most of the soaked were marathon runners, a few were walking, strolling, striding, crawling or strutting across the bridge for reasons of their own. Maxwell McGeorge, who misplaced his car at Patch County Bar the night before, was walking home to Marin City when the tragedy struck. "I thought it was great," he said, "really, really great. That little dip was just what I needed to get me up and on my way. It

was almost as good as a Happy Donut."

Local officials have been unable to determine what caused the collapse. Several fringe groups claimed credit, one calling it "a symbolic blow at the lackey running dog imperialists of the bourgeois bourgeoisie."

The State Department has suggested that the act was the work of El Salvadoran guerrillas acting at the instigation of Marxists in Havana or Moscow or some other place.

Arson has been cited as a possible cause, but Zagmore ZZazzick of the Cosmos Clearance Squad thinks cults

are to blame. Some sources pointed to "low riders." It has even been suggested that the collapse was caused by crustaceans nibbling away at the bridge's foundations all these many years.

Sgt. J. Morgan Futz, a veteran of the city's police force, saw the spectacle from his beat near Aquatic Park. "It was really something," he said. "First there was a deep noise, like metal stretching, then the whole damn thing just fell over and into the Bay. After 30 years on the force," he added, "it's the first time I ever saw the bridge collapse." □

—How 'bout dem dogs?—

24th St. Zoned for Franks

By Bright Mellomeyer

After months of grueling public hearings and court challenges over the terms of special use districts on 24th Street and elsewhere in the city, the Planning Commission has instituted a new plan for neighborhood commercial areas.

According to planner Leah Z. Fair, specific categories of shops will now be assigned to a particular neighborhood and totally prohibited elsewhere.

Fair said the goal of the plan was to encourage shoppers to travel outside their own neighborhoods in search of specific items. "It's always been a tradition for antique stores to cluster

together in a single locale. Our plan is a natural extension of that phenomenon."

The new special use district for 24th Street will allow an unlimited number of permits for hot dog stands, manicure shops, pet grooming salons, B & D churches, bed-and-breakfast establishments, New Wave record stores and amphibian knickknack shops.

MERCHANTS on 24th Street greeted the plan with general enthusiasm. "This will be a real shot in the arm for the commercial district," gushed Noe Valley merchant Del Shannon. "If this is the only place in town where you can buy a hot dog, shoppers will come for

Continued on Page 8

Literary Snobs Terrorize Local Tavern

By Bill Billiard

A crowd at the Cork 'n' Bottle on 24th Street had their evening of beer, billiards and relaxing conversation shattered one Friday last month when the tavern was invaded by half a dozen "intellectual snobs" who held the bartender and 17 customers hostage for three hours and forced them to read great works of literature.

"It was disgusting," recalled har-keep Slug O'Reilly. "First, they lined us up against the bar, then they passed out the books. Then... well, we had to read. We had no choice. The guy in charge threatened to recite T. S. Eliot if we didn't comply."

O'Reilly described the snobs' leader as "about 50, wearing wire-rimmed glasses, a tattered corduroy sport jacket with a No Nukes button and patches on the elbows, brushed denim slacks and brown Hush Puppies."

"The terrorists," he said, "claimed they had a thesaurus and the O.E.D. in a van outside, and they said they would use them if they had to."

All the books used in the attack were hardcover works of literature by an international selection of authors, including Dostoevsky, Stendhal, Faulkner, Ibsen, and Kafka. And all of them were at least two weeks overdue from

Continued on Page 8



Literary Snobs...

Continued from Page 7

the San Francisco Public Library.

"That was the really annoying thing," grimaced O'Reilly. "They were using taxpayer money to underwrite their acquisition of munitions." The brawny barkeep shuddered and wiped his brow before continuing.

"We knew these guys were capable of much worse. They could've gone A.G. (avant garde) on us any minute."

One of the patrons the night of the takeover managed to escape by crawling through the men's room window. "The snobs were afraid to go in there," remarked Gene Splicer, one of the freed hostages. Splicer, a former microbiologist with the Health Department who became a longshoreman after the passage of Proposition 13, speculated that the "snobs were probably afraid of viral surface contamination, with good reason."

The escaped hostage alerted police, who dispatched a specially disguised SWAT team to the premises. Sergeant Gregory Corruptos, the officer who led the successful rescue attempt, explained their response: "We knew we were dealing with a bunch of sickos, and we suspected by their M.O. that they had been English or at least Humanities majors. After that it was simple."

Corruptos and two fellow officers, dressed as Stanford graduate students, entered the bar and began an offhand discussion of quantum mechanics, the laws of thermodynamics and the spectra of heavy metals. The militants panicked and fled, where they were quickly surrounded by uniformed officers carrying more conventional weapons.

Among the six men arrested was ringleader Gregor Samsa, wanted in connection with a similar disturbance last December at the Park Bowl on Haight Street. In that incident, four men walked into the building and began a heated debate on the deleterious effects of existentialism on symbolic poetics. Several bowlers, engaged at the time in a tournament, were taken to Mission Emergency Hospital, treated for hyperextended vocabularies, and released.

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Franks...

Continued from Page 7

that, then stay to shop at the other stores."

If there are any other stores, that is. Mark Co-hen, Planning Committee co-chair for Friends of Noe Valley, pointed out that many of the stores in Noe Valley would have to relocate or convert their operations if their business was designated for another part of the city.

"We tried to negotiate with the commission for a balanced roster of stores for 24th Street," Co-hen noted. "They originally wanted to stick us

with a fast food category covering donuts, Jacks in the Boxes, McCickens and God knows what else, but we finally narrowed it down to just wieners. It could have been worse. Look what happened to Pacific Heights."

Co-hen was referring to the new Sacramento Street commercial plan. In exchange for a monopoly on designer jeans stores, Jacuzzi dealers, travel agencies, foreign car repair garages, baggeries, and four-star French restaurants, Pacific Heights had to accept an unlimited number of drug rehabilitation residence programs, after-hours clubs, massage parlors and head shops.

The Castro Street special use dis-

trict will not change much under the plan. It will still include unlimited bars and discos, restaurants with hot tubs, restaurants without hot tubs, sports apparel stores, military apparel stores, Western apparel stores, motorcycle apparel stores, gyms and tanning establishments.

Fair said the commission would delay expansion of the program to other neighborhoods until it could determine how well it functioned in the initial target areas. On the drawing board are plans to restrict grocery stores to the Park Merced district, Mom and Pop stores to Bernal Heights, and laundromats to Haight Street.

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SHORT FAKES

Courts Calamity

A freak accident marred the dedication ceremonies for Friends of Noe Valley's new play structure at Noe Courts last month.

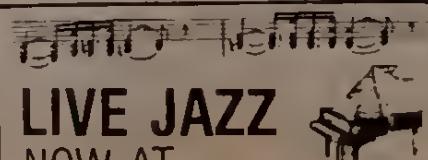
Minutes before the official unveiling March 29, Friends President Lou Hopfer got stuck in a crawl space of the equipment's plastic honeycomb construction and lay trapped for over an hour until firemen arrived.

According to witnesses, it took two companies of firefighters and Gray Panther Miriam Blaustein, pulling and pushing from both ends, to dislodge a sweat-soaked Hopfer, who had fainted after squirming for 10 minutes in the hot noonday sun.

"The guy said he knew the thing was designed for kids," said Station 11 Fire Chief Joe Baggetta, shaking his head. "He was apparently trying to get at what he thought was a quarter in there."

Since its installation two months ago, there's hardly been a day when the 15-foot-high play structure has not been crowded with neighborhood children, jubilantly sliding in and out and over the myriad curved panels.

"I guess I slipped up," said a chagrinned Hopfer, later recuperating at his Noe Valley home. "Anyway, I'd just finished three slices over at Noble Pies (across the street from the park), and when you wash that back with half a gallon of milk, I think it must make you expand or something."



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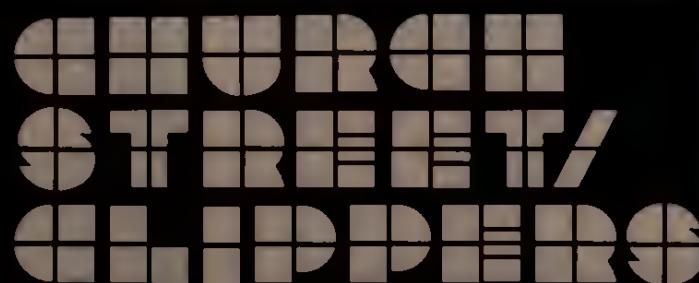
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Finnegan's a Go-Go

Pub Picks Up Porn Permit

Finnegan's Wake, the popular tavern on 24th Street, has been awarded Noe Valley's first cabaret/live entertainment permit after a special variance hearing of the San Francisco Planning Commission last month.

According to Tom Frankle, proprietor at Finnegan's, the bar will now devote six hours on Friday and Saturday nights to nude male dancing which he assured patrons would be "mellow."

Frenkla said the change was designed to attract both "straight female and gay male customers—the two groups of people with bread."

The dancers will initially wear sequined imitation tortoise-shell kitten jockstraps which Frankel expects "will quickly become stuffed with dollar bill tips."

Eventually, he explained, when "their baskets are overflowing," they will strip off the jockstraps for their last 20-minute set of the night and dance totally nude.

When word of Frenkla's project spread through the bar's regular clientele, the proprietor was soon approached by more than 30 of his current male customers, seeking jobs as dancers.

"Unfortunately," Frenkla said, "I've had, well you know, occasion to run into them in the men's room at the bar, and, well, they just don't have what it takes, if you catch my drift. One of our bartenders is, you might say, a bit overqualified, but as he lives in the East Bay, I'm sure the rigors of the job along with commuting would be too much for him."

Instead, Flanker has interviewed prospective employees at some of the bars "on the other side of the (Castro) hill. Our recruiting is coming along fine. I'm sure we'll have everything filled by our May opening."

Fred Methner

(Sentence deleted at the insistence of the Voice Legal Department.)

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• REVIEW •

What's Cookin' in the Meltin' Pot

BOAT PEOPLE RESTAURANT
4888 24th St.

Reviewed by Patty Pixie, R.B.

Considering its culinary sophistication and the adventurous spirit of its inhabitants, I'm surprised that San Francisco has taken as long as it has to attract a first-class dispensary of Foreignese cuisine. Happily, however, this gap in our gustatory groundwork has been mended, with the recent debut of Boat People, occupying a tiny niche on The City's bustling 24th Street, between Books Plus and St. Clair's liquor store.

The station is aptly named. Its enterprising founders Toussant Duvalier and his lovely wife Tram Doc Ngn bring together a wealth of culinary experience gained back home on their respective native soils and aboard ship, he in the blue Caribbean and she sampling the many exotic surprises that await travellers on the South China Sea.

The result is a cuisine that combines the familiar flavors in enticingly unfamiliar ways, guaranteed to please the truly cosmopolitan pallet.

On a recent visit to the restaurant, I journeyed, as I always do before a meal, to the restroom, the shabby condition of which I have often discovered to belie even the finest of The City's eateries. In this case, however, all was in order, the shade of the porcelain fixtures perfectly matching the bright, clean hue of the paper towels thoughtfully provided by the management.

Returning to my table, I found that

my two charming and knowledgeable companions had nearly finished our meal. There were plenty of bits and pieces left to nibble on, however. The curry tacos (\$12.75) were among the best I've had anywhere, their rich bechamel sauce elegantly balanced by tangy chile peppers. Likewise the peanut-matzoh ball soup (\$2.95 the cup, \$4.50 the bowl), done here with a marvelous lemony fish broth and topped with alfalfa sprouts.

But the crowning glory of this establishment is the house specialty, a wonderfully inventive concoction that Duvalier has titled Chicken Tram Doc (\$26.50 for two). This is a whole bird, stuffed with a garlic-infused mixture of caviar, celery root and spicy Mexican chorizo sausage, roasted to crispy perfection, then served flambe in a bath of Grand Marnier. The hummos and pureed brussel sprouts served alongside provided the perfect complement.

Despite the small portions, the lunch bill for three remained well under the \$100 mark, not including wine and tip, of course.

An amiable chat with the owners afterwards confirmed what earlier observation of the dining room and kitchen had led me to guess: he cooks, she waits table. Toussant told me of his plans to expand the present operation by opening branches throughout The City, the East Bay and the Peninsula, as well as a string of fast-food concessions, a nationwide chain of shopping centers, and a combined shipping line and international complex of resort hotels. After sampling his success with the admittedly modest Boat People, I don't see what could possibly hold him back. □

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I went to two very lovely parties this week, one in my old neighborhood, Pacific Heights, and the other in my new home, which is Noe Valley. At the first party, Charlotte Maillard asked me why I had moved (she said the valley was so mellow and besides there is no social life, well, I replied, that's simply not true, oh dear, Reg always tells me I have this trouble with run-on sentences.) Well, I said (this should be in quotation marks, shouldn't it?), "There's quite a lot that happens in Noe Valley."

I told her about the book-signing party at the office of Harry Aleo for a former President who was visiting from Southern California with his lovely wife Pat. (Of course, I did get a terse note from Oriana after that one.)

And I told Charlotte that there really is so much opportunity for social contact. Just standing in line between the lovely plush ropes at Gibraltar Savings is as good as a cocktail party. That's where I met Fred Methner who told me there was going to be an episode of Family Feud filmed at the Noe Valley Bar and Grill between the Shufats and the McFaddens.

I went to a party at Elisa's Health Spa to celebrate the installation of a new isolation tank—you know the kind where it's pitch dark and all you can hear is your tummy gurgle. Carl Smith was there and I asked him if he thought he would see God. And I ran into Jonah Kane; his parents Tom and Irene have entered him in the Greenpeace "Baby of the Year" contest.

At this amusing party we were all standing around the tank, glasses of Apollinari in our hands, when the door started very slowly to open. A large hairy hand groped in the light. I was terrified, thinking it must be a Neanderthal Man. Silly me. It was only Quentin Kopp. □

Welcome To Noe Valley

Have a Nice Day

By Jake Tippler

The Muni driver's eyes glazed with king-of-the-road contempt as he leaned his forearms on the wheel of the stymied 11-Hoffman bus. In front of him on 24th Street was a silver Honda Accord, two Mazda GLCs, a Vanagon with New York plates, a Morris, a Renault Le Car, a Toyota Land Cruiser, and at the head of it all, a black Chrysler Le Baron straddling the sidewalk at the entrance to Bell Market's parking lot. The Chrysler owner was waiting for a parking spot, and nobody was moving.

On the driver's left, in the next lane, an Olympia beer truck and a U.P.S. van were double-parked, effectively blocking that route. Some bus passengers got off rather than wait for the jam to clear while a teenager in the back seat cranked up 60 watts worth of Kool and the Gang.

Just then something kicked over to condition red in the driver's cerebral cortex. He had looked at the big Seiko diver's model on his wrist and seen it was seven minutes until his 11:33 17½-minute break, and he was freaking out. He'd never make it to West Portal in less than 14 minutes even if the traffic jam evaporated now.

A pale young woman carrying a bundle of papers under her arm was knocking on the bus door. He opened it. "Have you read the latest issue of Plain Speaking?" she asked, her face suddenly cheery. That did it. The driver slammed his gloved palm onto the horn and held it there like a wrist-wrestling champion. The frightened tabloid hawker backed off, and in her place on the bus stepped an earnest-looking man who introduced himself as Al Williams, representative of the new Noe Valley Community Board program.

"I'm here to try to get you involved in mediation with Mrs. Glut, a neighbor who's very concerned about the noise level on 24th Street," Williams said. "Now I'm not here to solve the problem; you've got to volunteer to discuss it with Mrs. Glut before our non-biased panel," he went on. The driver was staring at Williams as if he were some kind of weird bug.

"Look, since you're kind of stalled here," Williams continued, "why don't you come over and get acquainted with our panel members. We've got a card table set up in Bell's lot. Over there is one of our panelists, Bill Yard, talking to the woman in the Chrysler."

The driver's image of Williams as an insect was fleshing out when he noticed the reverse lights flash on the Honda in front of him. A billion panicky neurons crackled and popped in the Muni man's gray matter. He punched the forward button on his dash and rammed the Honda like a cue ball, igniting a chain collision that resulted in one of the most creative metal sculptures in towing service history. Imported fender met imported side panel, and the sound resembled aluminum beer empties being mashed by an eight-pound sledge against concrete.

Though no one was seriously injured in the 16-car pile-up, damage was estimated at over \$400,000, and numerous suits are pending. The incident also caused a setback in the establishment of the Community Board program in Noe Valley. "We haven't given up on the parking lot approach," Williams said from his bed at St. Luke's Hospital. "But we are looking for more funds so we can operate from something safer than a card table—like perhaps a Brinks truck." □

ARTIFACTS

By Judith Lynch

The Neighborhood's 'Antique' Firehouses

Commemorate the 75th anniversary of the 1906 quake and fire by attending an old-fashioned firemen's muster in the Civic Center April 18-19. There you will see hose cart races, ladder-raising competitions and steam engines belching smoke and gleaming with nickel-plated brightwork.

To get yourself in the mood for this event, you might try looking at Noe Valley's four "antique" firehouses, reminders of bygone days when horses pulled the city's engines and ladder trucks. The houses are scattered throughout the neighborhood, and each represents a different architectural era.

The oldest still standing anywhere in San Francisco is nearby at 1458 Valencia St. Now a residence, it was built in 1884 to house Steamer Company No. 13. Take along a magnet; the building's facade has details made of cast iron. The use of decorative iron embellishment was common in the East and Midwest as early as the 1830s, when entire building fronts could be ordered from foundry catalogs. The details would arrive in numbered crates and then be bolted to the brick building. Before the 1906 disaster, San Francisco had many buildings with cast-iron fronts. Now the house on Valencia Street and a few in the Jackson Square Historic District are the only iron-clad survivors.

The city's Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1850, following San Francisco's first major fire on Christmas Eve 1849. The volunteers served valiantly until 1866 when the present paid department was founded. One of the first volunteer groups, the Young American Engine Company, was located at 3160 16th St. That building burned in 1906, but two years later it was replaced by a redwood Victorian, now the second oldest firehouse in the neighborhood.

A photographer currently works there, but two architectural features offer clues to its original use. There's a large roof tower, which was used to dry hoses after a fire, and an apparatus door in front. This firehouse included stables for firehorses, which served the department from 1866 to 1922. Access to the horses' ground floor stalls was through the large front door. The firemen lived in the dormitory upstairs, sliding down the brass pole to the engine and horses below.

Another former firehouse can be found at 3916 22nd St. Look for the hose tower, a decorative "Mission" roofline and its brick-red paint. In 1959 it was declared surplus by the Fire Department and auctioned to two artists, who have converted it into living and studio space. The original stucco building was completed in 1909 to house Chemical Engine Company No. 44. Its horse-drawn chemical tanks contained soda and acid, like a large fire extinguisher on wheels.

San Francisco firefighters began converting from horse-drawn to motorized rigs in 1912. One of the first engine companies, No. 24, found a home at 100 Hoffman St. Completed in 1914, this Edwardian brick building with terra cotta decorations is the oldest San Francisco firehouse still in active service.

Looking at these reminders of firehorse days should whet your appetite for more. Satisfy it at the muster, a free event that should delight the whole family. □

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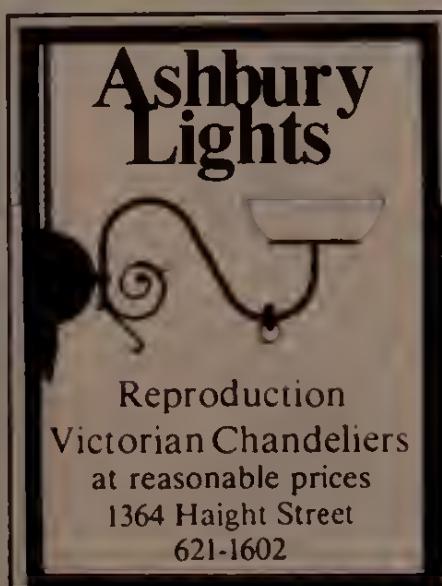
Illustration by Susan Koop



The old firehouses in the neighborhood each reflect a different architectural era:
(clockwise from top) 3160 16th St., 1458 Valencia St., 3916 22nd St., 100 Hoffman St.

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Review

Two Perspectives on the Same Puzzle

TELL ME A RIDDLE
By Tillie Olsen
Bell, \$1.50

Film directed by Lee Grant
With Lila Kedrova, Melvin Douglas, Brooke Adams
Cannery Theater

Reviewed by Lynn Rogers

A scene from this film keeps haunting me. The young Anna is lying in bed, nursing a baby and reading a book over its head. The bedside lamp casts a warm, yellow glow. The young David comes in, gently lifts the baby, and carries it into the next room. He tucks it into bed with several other children and turns out their light. Then he returns to the reading Anna. "No read," he whispers to her hoarsely. "No read." As he lifts the open book from her hand and reaches to pull the lamp switch, we see Anna's expression. She is stunned, angry, and incredulous all at once. Still, as the light goes out and the scene fades, we know she will acquiesce.

Tillie Olsen says the movie version of her novella, *Tell Me a Riddle*, leaves out Anna's politics—the politics of a lifelong revolutionary. The politics of a woman who fills out a hospital form: "race—human, religion—none. I am atheist." While this omission is serious and regrettable, the film is still a political film. The three young women who produced "Tell Me a Riddle," Godmother Productions, have done an excellent job, through scenes such as I've described, of portraying the personal political struggle of a woman trying all of her life to be more than the sum total of the roles her life hands her. She is wife, mother, grandmother, dying cancer victim, but she is also reader, thinker, rememberer, courageous fighter for dignity. When David wants to take her to the hospital because he is frightened by her illness,

she rails at him: "So, coward, you never were as brave as I. You will run from this, too?" When David tries to give her constant medication to ease her suffering, she spills the pills out on the floor. "It is my pain, it is real. Let me feel it, let me know it."

The Godmothers have also given us a film about the problems of aging. David wants to sell their house and move to The Haven, a union rest home. He is lonely, he has arthritis and cannot maintain the house himself. (One moving shot shows him setting up a ladder to clean the gutters, putting his foot on the first rung, and looking with terror up, up to the roof. Defeated, he steps down from the rung and puts the ladder away.) Anna, a private person made more private through near-deafness, surrounded and distracted all her life by the demands of others, wants only to withdraw from others now. She needs the security of her own home with her books and old photos to study, to understand. What can these old friends/old combatants do to resolve this conflict and how can their family and their society help them?

One of the major differences between the book and the film version of *Tell Me a Riddle* is the point of view from which they are presented. Olsen wrote it from inside Anna's head, Lee Grant directed it from the outside. Although she does a great deal with flashbacks, Grant has her character saying very little and we must intuit her thoughts from her actions. The cast is so good, however, particularly Lila Kedrova, that we usually feel we understand the motivation behind the action.

It really isn't necessary to decide which vehicle does a better job of portraying Anna and David's life. Both are excellent works of art. As Tillie said at the opening, "Film and print are different media. This movie isn't exactly my 'Tell Me a Riddle,' but it's a very good 'Tell Me a Riddle.' Read my book and see their movie. You'll learn from both."

MORE MOUTHS to feed .

Miriam Glaser was shocked when she learned that her pregnancy would yield twins. But that was only the first surprise. Though March 1 was the expected delivery date, new Noe Valley natives Aaron and Annette chose to enter the world almost three months early on Dec. 4.

Glaser spent a week at San Francisco's Children's Hospital getting ready for the duo's early arrival. They were both born healthy and join their 3-year-old brother Benjamin in making Glaser's days quite busy.

The twins have distinct personalities: "Annette sleeps more," says Glaser, "and Aaron makes more noise, but



they're both darling."

The Glaser kids and their proud mom live on 25th Street in Noe Valley.

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Review

Journeys Through Illness and Madness

By Peter Magnani

A delightful comedy about two men who are dying of cancer? It sounds unlikely, but that's exactly what's being served up at the San Francisco Repertory Theatre on 19th and Collingwood Streets, in the form of a play by Ronald Ribman called "Cold Storage."

The two men encounter each other on the roof garden of a New York hospital and, although they are dying, that grim inevitability is just the backdrop for the play. It's really about the need for friendship and the strange forms it can take.

Richard Landau, a mild-mannered, self-effacing investment counselor, would have been content to withdraw into a shell and waste away unnoticed. But instead he becomes the trapped victim of an Armenian produce vendor named Joseph Parmigian, who has settled on Landau as the perfect audience for the sometimes eloquent, sometimes trivial, but always relentless raging against the dying of the light.

The play begins as a virtual monologue of Parmigian's ranting and raving, which Landau is at first able to ignore successfully. But he gradually gets sucked in, and the audience along with him, until the play has built up enough momentum to work its fascinating central irony: the more we get to know Parmigian, and the more we become afflicted by his erascible and cynical blustering, the more we come to like him and to sympathize with his overriding desire to make life interesting at all costs.

A similar bit of psychological chemistry works with Landau. We like him better and better the more Parmigian pries him open, and our admiration for Parmigian increases even as his invasion of Landau's privacy becomes more and more pronounced. We realize, all the while this is happening, that Parmigian is a ruthless interloper. But we surprise ourselves by learning at the same time that what he's doing is necessary. Friendship isn't acquired without the sacrifice of some essential secrets, and life isn't worth living without it.

Lee Downey faces a fascinating challenge in the part of Parmigian. He has to make an audience like him by making it loathe him. His strengths of character have to reveal themselves during his moments of greatest weakness and vulnerability.

Downey accomplishes all this in spite of a considerable problem with his accent, which jumps around from New York Jew to whining WASP, to tough-guy Italian import, to something that could perhaps be described as Armenian. It's distracting, but it fades after awhile, as his infectious personality and the glibness of Ribman's script take over.

David Parr is less successful as Landau, the straight man and fall guy. His delivery is stilted beyond what it would take to establish the basic insecurity and discomfort that mark his character. As a result, we can't be sure whether his hapless attempts at insightful social commentary are intentionally clumsy or just badly articulated. And it just doesn't seem possible that he could

have been through what he reveals about himself at the end of the play. That might be the playwright's fault more than the actor's. You can't have it both ways: forged in the flames of tremendous social calamity and yet pathetically devoid of soul at the same time.

Susanne Zerga has a small role as a hospital nurse. Fred Hartman is the director. "Cold Storage" plays Thursdays through Sundays until April 11. Call 863-4859 for ticket information.

Audiences are so hot to see David Edgar's "Mary Barnes" at the Eureka Theatre on 16th and Market Streets that the theatre has extended its run until April 17. If you can get tickets, by all means do so, and join the throngs who are giving nightly standing ovations to this sterling production.

In a sprawling, complex, loosely wrought series of episodes, the play tells the now famous story of the journey through madness made by a middle-aged Catholic schizophrenic at Kingsley Hall, the radical community founded in London by R. D. Laing during the 1960s.

Doctors and patients lived on equal terms there, and coercion was supposed to be replaced by communal participation.

Edgar's play is no hymn of praise for Laing's experiment. We watch the astonishing success story of Mary Barnes but she's surrounded by failure and confusion, and the action touches more than lightly on the well-meant, but often dangerous assumptions of the community's movers and shakers. Ultimately, Edgar's version of Kingsley Hall becomes a microcosm of the reckless idealism of the '60s, which worked such wonders before its inevitable destruction by forces from without and within.

The Eureka production is a tour de force for Director Richard E. T. White, who makes it cohere in spite of built-in difficulties that would doom any but an extraordinary director. Linda Hoy plays Mary so convincingly that it's hard to imagine anyone else in the role.

The rest of the cast is strong, too, primarily Dana Kelly as Eddie the radical young shrink, Steve Coats as the zany Zimmerman, Mick Renner as the Svengali-like Hugo, partly based on Laing, and Mary Wadkins as Beth, the quintessential hippie.

This is a play that's liable to stick with you for a long time. □

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C A L E N D A R

April 4: Douglas School Fiesta. 19th and Collingwood Streets. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

April 5: Friends of Noe Valley 10th Anniversary celebration and dedication of Noe Courts. 24th and Douglass Streets. Picnic starts at 11 a.m. All welcome.

April 5: The San Francisco Children's Chorus presents "Mother Goose on the Loose," selections from "Oliver," and "Spring Fjord." Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 7 p.m. Free.

April 5-27: "Tejidos de Otavalo, Ecuador" (Weavings of Ecuador). Galeria de la Raza, 2851 24th St. Reception April 5, 4 to 7 p.m.

April 7: Free introduction to homeopathy. Followed by a three-week first aid course (fee \$15), offered by Pat Sanders, RN. 1404 Church St. 7:30 p.m. 821-7137.

April 7: Music Through Movement class based on an approach called Eurythmics. Tuesdays until June 23. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. 285-9436.

April 7-30: Galeria Museo presents an exhibit of paintings by Alfonso Ximenez. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. 821-1155. Free. Reception April 7, 7 to 10 p.m.

April 11: The Ina Chalis Opera Group presents Rossini's "Stabat Mater." Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8 p.m. \$3 or PAS plus 50¢.

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- Story Hour for Older Children. Thurs., 4 p.m.

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- Exercise class. Fri., 10 a.m. to noon.

SAN FRANCISCO SOCIALIST SCHOOL, 29 29th St., 221-3333

- All classes begin at 8 p.m. at the school, unless otherwise noted. Childcare by arrangement. Admission \$2.
- April 4: Harry Britt on gays and politics in San Francisco.
- April 10: Gordon De Marco: Publish Yourself.
- April 17: Zimbabwe, an update.
- April 17: Carl Marzani, author of *The Promise of Eurocommunism*. 225 30th St.
- April 24: Jules Tygiel on "Baseball's Great Experiment."
- April 25: Paul Sweezy, author of *Monopoly Capitalism*. 3543 18th St.

EUREKA THEATRE CO., 2299 Market St., 863-7133

- Through April 17: "Mary Bames." Thurs.-Sun., 8 p.m.

SAN FRANCISCO REPERTORY, 4147 19th St., 863-4859

- Through April 11: "Cold Storage." Thurs.-Sun., 8 p.m. Sun. matinees, 2 p.m.
- April 23 to May 23: "Tales from the Vienna Woods" by Odon Von Horvath.

NOE VALLEY JAZZ, 1021 Sanchez St., 282-2317

- Sunday afternoon performances, 2 p.m. \$3 or PAS plus 50¢
- April 5: Bohyy McFerrin
- April 12: Larry Kass and Joyce Imbesi
- April 19: Kitty Margolis
- April 26: Ron Jaworski Quintet

NOE VALLEY SENIOR CENTER, 1021 Sanchez St., 282-2317

- Hot lunches served 1 p.m., Tues. and Thurs.



Artist Florence Holub has lived in Noe Valley for many years, and among her works are local pictorials such as the pen and ink drawing of Dolores Heights above. Holub joins Judy Moore and Amy Tuss in a multi-media art show at Gallery Sanchez, 1021 Sanchez St., from April 12 to May 1. A reception for the artists will be held Sunday, April 12, from 4 to 6 p.m. Gallery Sanchez is open Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon and 3 to 6 p.m.

ONGOING EVENTS

NOE VALLEY MINISTRY, 1021 Sanchez St., 282-2317

Daily:

- Word and meditation, 8 a.m.
- T'ai Chi exercise, 8:30-9:15 a.m.
- Noe Valley Co-op Nursery School, 9-12:30 a.m.
- Draft registration/C.O. counseling, 282-2317 or 826-1069.
- Paideia University, 221-1112.
- Dance/movement therapy by appointment, 864-0911. Fee.

Sunday:

- Overeaters Anonymous, 9-10 a.m. 824-2914.
- Noe Valley Ministry worship celebration, 10 a.m.
- Writers Read, 282-2317.

Monday:

- Jazz exercise, 6:15-7:30 p.m. 282-5835. Fee.
- "Language of the Body," 7-10 p.m.
- Dansynergy. Mon., Wed., Fri., 7-8:30 a.m. 665-1656. Fee.

Tuesday:

- Noe Valley Junior Girl Scouts, 3:30-5 p.m. 285-2648.
- Escrima (Philippine martial arts). 756-6443. Fee.
- Men's drop-in, 7:30-9:30 p.m. even Tuesdays. Fee.

Wednesday:

- Prenatal support group/body awareness, 10-noon. 731-1970. Fee.
- After-school program for children, 3:30-5 p.m.
- Yoga, 6-7:30 p.m. 648-1050. Fee.

Thursday:

- Jazz exercise, 6:15-7:30 p.m. Fee.
- Greek and Israeli folk dance, 7:30-9:30 p.m. 647-2483. Fee.

Friday:

- Noe Valley Cinema, 8 p.m. 469-8890.

Saturday:

- Liturgy study, 9 a.m.
- T'ai Chi Chuan, 10-11:30 a.m. Fee.
- Body awareness, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. 282-2214. Fee.
- Integrative movement. April 18 to May 30. 282-2214.

VETS CENTER, 1708 Waller St., 386-6726

- Vietnam-era veterans outreach program. Walk-in weekdays, 9 to 5.
- One-on-one counseling, employment listings, rap groups, referrals.

NOE VALLEY CINEMA

Films are shown Friday evenings at 8 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. near 23rd. Call 469-8890 for details.

April 3 Luchino Visconti's "Obsession" and "The Revenge of the Cinematographic Cameraman (short).

April 10 Rare Columbia Studios animation from the 1930s and 1940s.

April 17 Vacallion-no cinema tonight.

April 24 Ronald Reagan in "Bedtime for Bonzo" and Ronald Reagan bloopers.

NOTE: After the April 24 show, the Noe Valley Cinema will be on vacation until July 3.